

## KOENIGIA ISLANDICA (POLYGONACEAE) NEW FOR UTAH

Mihai Costea<sup>1</sup>

Department of Plant Agriculture  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, CANADA  
coste\_amihai@hotmail.com

François J. Tardif

Department of Plant Agriculture  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, CANADA  
ftardif@uoguelph.ca

*Koenigia islandica* L. is a circumpolar species that extends south in North and South America, in scattered alpine summits of the Rocky Mountains and the Andes (Löve & Sarkar 1957; Freeman, unpublished). It occurs in alpine communities growing in permanently moist gravel or moss, especially around persistent nival basins near small streams, ponds, and lakes at elevation up to 3800 m (Freeman, unpublished). Sub-national conservation status has been assessed to S1 (critically imperiled) in Montana, Wyoming (U.S.A.), Alberta and Manitoba (Canada), S2 (imperiled) in Colorado (U.S.A.) and S2S3 in British Columbia, Labrador and Newfoundland (Canada). The species is possibly extirpated (SH) from Ontario, Canada (NatureServe Explorer 2002).

Voucher specimen: **U.S.A. UTAH. Duchesne Co.:** Ashley Forest, Uinta Mountains, Uinta drainage, Gilbert Bench E of Gilbert Peak, T5NR4W S24 N1/2 USM, elevation ca. 3600 m, alpine community, growing in a seep, apparently rooted in moss, 9 Aug 2000, S. Goodrich, A. Huber, F. Bartlett and J. Frandsen 26308 (5) (BRY, NY).

*Koenigia islandica* can be mistaken with seedlings of *Epilobium* spp. or with dwarf plants of *Polygonum minimum* Small. In the latter case, it can be easily distinguished by its opposite or whorled leaves and the flowers with 3 tepals and 3 stamens (*P. minimum* has alternate leaves and flowers with 5 tepals and 8 stamens).

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We warmly thank Stanley Welsh for confirming our finding and Craig Freeman for sharing with us his unpublished treatment of *Koenigia* for FNA.

### REFERENCES

- FREEMAN, C.C. (unpublished). *Koenigia* L. in Flora of North America, unpublished manuscript prepared for Vol. 5.
- LÖVE, Á. and P. SARKAR. 1957. Chromosomes and relationships of *Koenigia islandica*. *Canad. J. Bot.* 35:507–514.
- NATURESERVE EXPLORER: AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE [web application]. 2002. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: March 17, 2003).

---

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author.